

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /012 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:KKURZE

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O 201414Z JAN 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 270

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SAM 86970

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO SAIGON TAIPEI TOKYO  
MOSCOW BEIRUT PEKING CINCPAC CINCUSARPAC CINCPACFLT CINCPACAF  
COMUSTDC COMSEVENTHFLT FROM HONG KONG 20 JAN 74:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 769

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, CH

SUBJ: NCNA REPORTS PRC CLASHES WITH SOUTH  
VIETNAMESE: ISSUES WARNING

REF: HONG KONG 751

SUMMARY: NCNA (JANUARY 19) REPORTED PRC CLASHES WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
IN PARACEL ISLANDS, PREDICTABLY PORTRAYING PRC AS THE  
INJURED PARTY THAT REACTED IN SELF DEFENSE ONLY AFTER  
REPEATED SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROVOCATIONS. IT ENDED  
WITH A WARNING THAT THE "SAIGON AUTHORITIES" WOULD  
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"EAT THEIR OWN BITTER FRUIT" IF THEY DID NOT BACK

OFF. NO REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE US. THIS IS THE PRC'S  
FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE DISPUTE SINCE ITS JANUARY  
11 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT RENEWING PRC CLAIMS TO  
THE ISLANDS. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE

SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM BRAZENLY  
INVADE CHINA'S HSI SHA ISLANDS AND START ARMED  
CONFLICTS

SINCE JANUARY 15, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES  
IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE BRAZENLY SENT  
WARSHIPS AND AIRPLANES TO INTRUDE INTO CHINA'S TERRITORIAL  
WATERS AND AIR SPACE AROUND AND OVER THE HSI SHA ISLANDS,  
FORCIBLY OCCUPY CHINESE ISLANDS AND OPEN FIRE AT CHINESE  
FISHERMEN ENGAGED IN PRODUCTION AND CHINESE NAVAL VESSELS  
ON NORMAL PATROL DUTY. THEY HAVE THUS FLAGRANTLY INFRINGED  
ON CHINA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND MADE  
FRANTIC PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

AROUND 1:00 PM ON JANUARY 15, WARSHIPS SENT BY THE  
SAIGON AUTHORITIES CARRIED OUT HARASSMENT AND SABOTAGE  
AGAINST CHINESE FISHING BOAT NO. 402 WHICH WAS ENGAGED  
IN PRODUCTION NEAR THE KANCHUN ISLAND, SHELLED THE  
ISLAND FLYING THE NATIONAL FLAG OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA AND TRIED UNREASONABLY TO MAKE THE CHINESE FISHING BOAT  
LEAVE CHINA'S OWN WATERS.

AROUND 8:00 AM ON JANUARY 17, TROOPS OF THE SAIGON  
AUTHORITIES INVADED CHINA'S CHINYIN ISLAND- AT 3:00 PM,  
OCCUPIED CHINA'S KANCHUAN ISLAND AND BLATANTLY TOOK DOWN  
CHINA'S NATIONAL FLAG THERE.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 18, TWO NAVAL VESSELS OF  
THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES TRUCULENTLY AND UNREASONABLY RAMMED  
CHINESE FISHING BOATS NO. 402 AND NO. 407, AND WRECKED  
THE PILOTHOUSE OF THE NO. 407 FISHING BOAT NORTH OF THE LINHYANGCHIAO  
REEF.

LATER ON, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES CONTINUED THEIR PROVOCATIONS  
WITH REDOUBLED EFFORTS IGNORING CHINA'S REPEATED WARNINGS.  
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AROUND 7:00 AM ON JANUARY 19, TROOPS OF THE SAIGON  
AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO OCCUPY CHINA'S CHENHANG ISLAND.  
CHINESE FISHERMEN ON THE ISLAND WAGED A RIGHTEOUS STRUGGLE  
BY REASONING WITH THEM AND DEMANDED THAT THEY LEAVE CHINA'S  
TERRITORY. HOWEVER, THE TROOPS FIRED AT CHINESE FISHERMEN,  
KILLING AND WOUNDING A NUMBER OF THEM.  
DRIVEN BEYOND THE LIMITS OF FORBEARANCE, THE CHINESE  
FISHERMEN FOUGHT BACK HEROICALLY AND REPELLED THEIR ATTACK.

AT 10:20, NAVAL VESSELS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES OPENED GUN FIRE AT THE CHENHANG ISLAND. AT 10:30, FOUR AIRPLANES OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES BOMBED AND STRAFED THE ISLAND. AT THE SAME TIME, NAVAL VESSELS OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES FIRED AT CHINESE PATROL VESSELS WHICH WERE FORCED TO STRIKE BACK IN SELF-DEFENCE.

FOR A LONG TIME, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE HARBOURED TERRITORIAL DESIGNS ON CHINA'S ISLANDS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA AND ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED SOME ISLANDS OF CHINA'S NANSHA AND HSISHA ISLANDS. IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES MADE A BRAZEN ANNOUNCEMENT INCORPORATING MORE THAN TEN ISLANDS OF CHINA'S NANSHA ISLANDS, INCLUDING NANWEI AND TAIPING, INTO THEIR BOUNDS. THE SPOKESMAN OF THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JANUARY 11 THIS YEAR STERNLY CONDEMNING THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES' WANTON INFRINGEMENT ON CHINA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND REITERATING THAT CHINA HAS INDISPUTABLE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NANSHA, HSISHA, CHUNGSHA AND TUNGSHA ISLANDS. HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED WARNINGS, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES SENT ARMED FORCES TO FURTHER ENCROACH UPON CHINA'S TERRITORY AND START ARMED CONFLICTS. SUCH UNSCRUPULOUS PROVOCATIONS BY THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES HAVE AROUSED THE STRONG INDIGNATION OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE. THE CHINESE PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. SHOULD THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES BE BENT ON ACTING WILFULLY AND REFUSE TO STOP THEIR ENCROACHMENT UPON CHINA'S TERRITORY IMMEDIATELY, THEY ARE BOUND TO EAT THEIR OWN BITTER FRUIT. END QUOTE  
OSBORN UNQUOTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SOVEREIGNTY, ISLAND CLAIMS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O:KKURZE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, VS, CH, PF  
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